

**FREE**  
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# Ecomedia

B U L L E T I N

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*Copenhagen:*

## Squatters Action Week

Every year the squatters in Copenhagen hold a week of action, and this year it was held from May 7 to 13. The week kicked off on the 7th when some squatters went out onto the roof of the 7 story-high Shell building and took the "S" out of the logo, giving the company the name it so rightly deserves.

During the rest of the day they held a march which took them past the most of the places and people they wanted to hit during the week, including the National Bank, Police and politicians, prisons, mainstream media and polluters. They also visited places they liked, including *Krim*, which is an organization that helps prisoners.



*Cops advance on Copenhagen Squat (Back Flag)*

The 8th was Environment Day. A bike rally visited the biggest polluters in the city; the soya cake factory and NOVO. At NOVO the directors car was stolen and will not be brought back

until NOVO stops its gene splicing experiments and closes its factory. At the *Panum Institute* some windows were smashed because of the instit-

*(cont. pg. 4)*

## **"COPS! PIGS! MURDERERS!"**

In April the killing "suicide" of 19 year old prisoner of the state Giorgios Valeris by the guards of the "youth prison of Korydalos" sparked one of the biggest prison revolts that Greece has seen in recent years. Chanting the popular anarchist slogan "Cops, Pigs, Murderers" young prisoners fought with riot police and special commando units who showered them with teargas and smokebombs. After a few unsuccessful attempts by the cops to storm the building, authorities decided to hear the prisoners demands. In their statements to the press they de-

scribed some of the cruel conditions that they face daily. The government tried to play down the event in an attempt to diffuse the social outcry about the horrific prison conditions.

In the meantime, a week ago a march organized by anarchists to demand the release of the 4 imprisoned anarchist comrades Clearhós Smyrnaios, Vagelió Vognatzi, Christo Marinos and Mákos Boukouvaloēs (whom you have heard of before on Ecomedia) was attacked by riot police. Chanting slogans like "You in prison and we in the streets lets abolish the

cops and the laws" or "the passion for freedom is stronger than all the cages". the protesters reached outside the offices of Pasok near Exarchia square and showered the cops with eggs and bricks. In the clashes that ensued many comrades got beaten up badly but no arrests were made. It should be noted that police have in recent months banned many anarchist demonstrations on the pretext that they expect in their own words "a disruption in the economic and social life of the country".

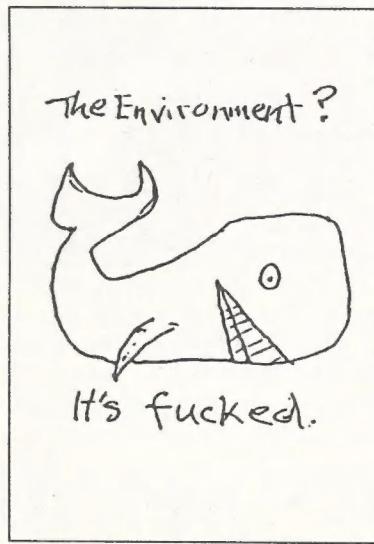
*(an Ecomedia correspondent)*

# Acid Rain? No Problem!

**IT** seems we did the corporate ruling class an injustice when we assumed that it wasn't going to do anything about acid rain. A few more years of its present policies, and there won't be any rain at all. All indications are that it will continue burning large quantities of carbon fuels, such as wood, coal and oil, and cutting down forests. Burning fuels releases into the air carbon dioxide molecules which absorb solar radiation that would otherwise return to space; the molecules act as an invisible greenhouse roof keeping in the heat. The level of carbon dioxide in the air has risen 25% in the last 200 years, 10% in the last 30. Other gases such as methane and nitrous oxide are also increasing in the atmosphere. The earth's temperature during these 200 years has risen one degree Celsius. Five degrees of cooling produced the last ice age, and five of warming - due within 50 years at the present acceleration rate - would melt the polar ice cap, flooding coastal areas, while producing drought in interior regions.

The politicians have been given lots of briefings about this by the scientific community. Recently Dr. James Hansen, a NASA climatologist, stated that global temperatures in the first five months of 1988 are the highest recorded since measurement began 130 years ago. He also said that it is 99% certain that the gradual global warming trend is not caused by chance or natural variation, but rather by the aforementioned buildup of gases in the atmosphere. Nonethe-

less, government policy is to make matters worse. The Reagan government has gutted solar research, relaxed environmental controls and lulled the public with false claims that the marketplace can keep fuel cheap and plentiful. Mulroney has ended a number of tax concessions to users of renewable energy, cutting the \$10 million/year solar water heating market in half. He also forced the NRC to drop



solar energy research and development, and cut support of conservation and renewable energy programs from \$272 to \$74 million (while promoting such environmentally disruptive hydroelectric megaprojects as James Bay 1 and 2.) The World Bank does its bit by funding similar projects in the Third World, such as massive coal-fired projects in India.

Deforestation is also contributing

to increased drought; such countries as Mexico, Panama and Brazil have experienced considerably less rainfall since huge areas of their tropical rainforest have been cut down. The rain forests have already been reduced by nearly 50% since 1900, and at present rates will be completely gone by 2020 along with 20% of the planet's plants and animals. No longer will they soak up rain and release it gradually into the earth and atmosphere, halting flooding and erosion. Yet the industrial nations are demanding Third World forest products as part payment of their "debt." In Canada, environmentalists fight to save the Stein Valley while twenty times its amount of timber is cut every year (and not replaced, as Hazelton BC millworkers found when they lost their jobs.)

Ontario is pressing ahead with its own deforestation program, turning Temagami over to the chain-saws while at the same time cutting back on 'reforestation'. There's a 46% reduction in sites being prepared for next year's planting, and less money to audit survival rates of nursery stock or to monitor overlogging. In this context, the battle of the Temagami Native peoples to prevent the area from being further logged is a battle for the survival of us all, and we should all participate and support their struggles.

Sources: *NOW Magazine* 21-4-88 p9, 7-7-88 p7; *Toronto Star* 26-6-88 pB5; *Toronto Globe and Mail* 4-7-88 pA7; *Detroit Free Press* 24-6-88 pA1. Interpretation by Ecomedia.

# Confronting The State a Healthy Debate

**B**ecause of the Survival Gathering, the last issue of Ecomedia was rushed through without the usual consultation, and several of the articles represented the views only of the writer, rather than a collective consensus. What follows is criticism of the lead article, which praised the tactics used in the anarchist demonstration at the U.S. consulate, by two collective members followed by comments from the author. In this article, we inaugurate our 'new policy' of partially signing articles on which there is no consensus by the editorial collective.

## **FORCE NECESSARY AT THIS POINT**

With regards to the article "*This Time We Retaliate*," I object not so much to the content of the article as to the criticisms delivered to pacifists in Toronto. As an anarchist/anti-authoritarian movement, we all share a basic goal in common: a world free of oppression, bosses, states and classes. Our choices of tactics in working towards that goal are many, ranging from 'pacifism' and 'lifestyleism' to the 'violent' overthrow of capitalism, and everything in between. Not all are useful, and *none* are perfect, but in the interests of building an anarchist/anti-authoritarian movement we have to learn to respect each others' choices of tactics.

Often pacifists would like to deny that those of us who don't share their pacifism are part of their movement. We must *not* encourage this division. *Together*, through many different ways and means, we work towards change. By acting in solidarity with each other, we will be that much stronger. The only splits we should be developing are be-

tween us and authoritarians, not between those of us who work for a non-authoritarian future. I wouldn't choose pacifist tactics and I may doubt their effectiveness, but I feel that the article in the last Ecomedia was *not* a constructive effort in the struggle we share.

As regards the statement in this issue that all demonstrations are futile, I feel that this depends on the aims of the demonstration. Masses of people joining in an attack on a specific structure, institution or force of capitalism can effect change. No attempt need be made at communication with leaders, but a demonstration should cross the line to direct (rather than "symbolic") actions and force a change to take place. Intervention by groups of people in business as usual can stop things, but only if demonstrators are willing to ignore legal/political boundaries and assert their collective strength. Demos like that of the anarchists July 4 are a step towards feeling our collective power, laying ground for future action. Violence will only be a part of that action

if (a) the police seek to stop us, and (b) the people want a change badly enough. At this point, force will be necessary, unless a viable alternative exists. Any better ideas?

-Kevin

### CAN VIOLENCE HELP BUILD BETTER SOCIETY?

While David's article was correct in suggesting that little is accomplished by demonstrations which cooperate with the police, it is questionable whether those which fight them achieve anything either. All demonstrations are built on the faulty premise that there is some point of communication between ourselves and the corporate rulers. Butting heads with the police will do nothing to alter the rulers' policies, and we might better spend our energies creating an alternative society.

It is highly irresponsible to encourage demonstrators to use violence against the police (true, they use it against us, but are they our mentors?) We were very lucky that nobody at this demonstration was killed or seriously injured or framed into a long jail term. Whenever the police do such things, public opinion supports them - it should be noticed that a few days after the demonstration, the cops tortured a prisoner to death because he had "resisted arrest" and only his family and friends protested. Besides these practical questions there's an ethical one - can we build a better society than the present violent one by using the same violent tactics?

-Gary

### ANGER AND OUTRAGE ENOUGH REASON

As author of the article *"This Time We Retaliate"* I'd like to add a few points in response to the above criticisms:

Explicit anarchist demonstrations are not, in my opinion, necessarily built on a premise, faulty or otherwise, that there is some sort of communication between ourselves and the corporate scum. Anarchists are not necessarily interested in influencing government policies, as this ultimately re-enforces their power and control. An anarchist demonstration need be no more than an expression of anger and outrage, which the Day of Action on July 4th was. A demonstration does not need the justification of communication with the scum that rule us or control us in order to exist.

On another point, I don't encourage "violence" against police or anyone, but I do encourage self-defense against physical attacks from anyone, be they police or whoever.

-David

# A Reader Responds

**T**HE Ecomedia collective received a criticism from "Les Smoke" of our "Taking it to the Streets" article (see issue #29) which is too long to be reprinted here. Here are the basic points of the letter. Since we cannot offer the necessary space here for such debate, we encourage everyone concerned with the issue of tactics and demonstrations to discuss these ideas amongst their groups, friends and family in order to move forward to an effective movement for social change.

Many criticisms were raised but they centered on several main points:

- 1) *The attempts to present arrest warrants to the G-7 was an empowering action; the media only showed up en masse because the idea of presenting warrants was so outrageous and principled. Burning newspaper boxes will never give us decent political coverage.*
- 2) *The War Crimes Tribunal was effective in presenting real peoples evidence to a real peoples jury and the testimony would disgust people enough to make a real commitment to change things.*
- 5) *Calling ourselves anarchists doesn't make us anarchists. People were going farther than before at the demo but they were the people handing over arrest warrants, not us.*

Hopefully our paraphrasing of this letter does it justice. Our best response could be found in the original article itself. And in the debate preceding.



# A.L.F. International Update

## A U S T R A L I A

**Victoria,** The trial of the three Australian men accused of liberating several hens and a number of other charges, has ended with almost all of the charges being dropped. The cops stated at the trial that it was "a matter of suspicion rather than evidence" when they had charged the three with involvement in the chicken liberation at the Kambouris Poultry Farm in March of 1987. Gary Rowson and Iain Banfield were both convicted on five counts of causing "criminal damage" to the windows of Stephen Dattner Furs on February 14, 1987, and were fined \$750 each. All charges against Matthew Layton were dropped.

The above information was taken from a mainstream newspaper article. Hopefully, a pamphlet will be put out as a follow-up to the case, so please write to the *Supporters Group for Animal Activists, P.O. Box 519, Eltham, Victoria 3095 Australia*, for more information, or to send money to help with the fines and lingering court costs.

## E N G L A N D

**LONDON** - On 3rd June, Robin Lane (ex press-officer of the *Animal Liberation Front Supporter's Group*) and Sally Carr were sentenced at Cardiff Crown Court to 18 months in prison, half of it suspended, after being found guilty of *conspiracy to incite others to cause criminal damage*. Their charges arose out of their involvement with the running of the ALF Supporter's Group and the production of its leaflets and magazines.

Ten days later, on 13th June, about 50 people held a picket outside the Old Bailey (Britain's top Criminal Court) in support of two ALF activists on trial, facing three charges of arson and also of possessing various articles with intent to cause criminal damage. These charges related to the three incendiary-device attacks against Debenhams department stores in Romford, Harrow (both London) and Luton in July 1987. The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for these actions as part of its ongoing campaign against the fur trade. Two months later, Geoff Sheppard and Andrew Clarke were arrested when cops from the Anti-Terrorist Squad raided Geoff's home. ALF literature and four partly-assembled incendiary devices were seized by the cops. As a result of these actions, Debenhams lost over £9 000 000 through the actual damage caused and through loss of trade. They just recently announced that they are to stop selling furs.

On 17th June, Geoff Sheppard was sentenced to 4 years 4 months in prison and Andrew Clarke to 3 1/2 years after they were found guilty of the three attacks against Debenhams and of the possession of the four partly-assembled incendiary devices. The prisoners (and supporters) felt quite relieved at the relatively "low" sentences they received, as they were expecting a possible ten years if found guilty on all counts. (Before the judge passed the verdict, members of the Anti-Terrorist Squad were overheard placing bets on the outcome in the corridors of the court, believing the prisoners were going to get 10-12

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years. As you can imagine, they were well pissed off! ha ha...)

Since their arrest, the media have attempted to portray the activists as "terrorists" and "fanatics," obviously fueled on the lies and paranoia of the police and State. They've used shock-horror headlines blurting on about the "Nine million pound Fire-Blitz" and "ALF Bomb-Plots!!" The "bombs" were timed incendiary devices, set to go off in the early hours of the morning when the stores would be deserted. The idea behind this kind of action is to start a very small fire with enough smoke to activate the store's sprinkler systems (which all large department stores must have by law in the UK) and cause maximum damage through subsequent flooding throughout the store. However, in the Luton branch of Debenhams the sprinklers had been switched off by the staff to carry out maintenance and so the fire caught hold, burning out most of the store.

Despite what the police and media wish us all to believe, the Animal Liberation Front still maintains a policy that no person should be put at risk or harmed during such actions. Despite the setting up of a special police branch to counter the activities of ALF groups, direct action is still happening and the struggle against the multi-billion pound animal exploitation industries is alive and well.

## Copenhagen (cont.)

ues experiments on animals. Out of the whole day there was only one arrest.

The 9th was EEC/NATO. The squatters did street-theatre, which portrayed a peace demo guarded by soldiers. Everytime the peace demonstrators wanted to break out of the demo they were beaten brutally by the soldiers. A wagon filled with dead bodies made the whole scene more macabre.

The 10th was to have been Anti-Fascism Day but had to be cancelled.

The 11th was Big Brother Day. Schools were visited and students were given information about SSP-cooperation (which is a system of networking for schools, socal services, and police). At the townhall 7 flags were burnt.

The 12th was the Day of International Solidarity.

The 13th was Surprise Day. During the night a police van, controlling the Youth House (a youth squat) was attacked. In the morning some shops got their fruits painted as a protest against Israel. During the surprise demo a house was squatted, but evicted brutally in the same hour. 21 people were arrested. The Youth House was searched and 19 more people were arrested. The Squat Baldersgade was attacked, but the police didn't succeed in evicting it, so they left after 2 hours of very heavy fighting including teargas attacks. 7 more people were arrested while fleeing the gas.

Friday night the prison was attacked in solidarity with those arrested. Several of its windows were smashed. Also several banks, shops and cars were smashed.

After the riots on Friday, the Copenhagen council decided to try and close Youth House and also evict some of the other squats.

The squatting situation in Amsterdam, Holland is, unfortunately, considerably worse. According to the *Globe* the last of the Amsterdam squats has finally been evicted. Under the pretense of building new housing developments police have been attacking the squats for the past week. 200 squatters and an unspecified number of supporters had erected burning barricades in the streets, dug trenches to keep out police personnel carriers, and were fighting back with paving stones, but to no avail. We will have more info as we receive it from our Ecomedia contact in Holland. *News from Ecomedia Arhus, Black Flag and Globe and Mail*

## MEDIA WATCH



The USA is pushing one drug at the same time as it claims to be leading a holy war against others. The *New York Times* magazine of July 10th includes a long article about the USA forcing its tobacco products on Third World countries, earning itself \$2.5 billion a year in export revenue. Last year, U.S. tobacco exports to Asia rose 76%. Smoking rates are very high among Asian males (i.e. 63% in Japan, 90% in China), and rising among wimmin and young people. By threatening Korea, Japan and Taiwan with massive trading sanctions, the USA has forced them to open markets to U.S. cigarettes and to advertise them on the mass media without the Surgeon General's warning. The director of the Institute of Preventive Oncology in Tokyo has compared the recent influx of U.S. tobacco ads on Japanese television to the old B-29 bombings, adding that the term "Ugly American" is coming back. Smoking-related diseases have overtaken communicable ones as the leading cause of death in parts of Asia, and are especially draining for developing countries like the Philippines or Malaysia where only scant health resources exist.

## ECOMEDIA TORONTO

The *ECOMEDIA Bulletin* is a bi-weekly publication of the Ecomedia Toronto Office. The Ecomedia Group currently needs people to help distribute the Bulletin in new areas. We could also use more help in writing and production. Submissions may be edited for length, so keep it short. If you'd like to give us a hand, we meet every 2 weeks. Please write to find out meeting times and location (address on front logo).

Our circulation is currently 1600, but we need help both financially and labourwise to increase our work, so please consider getting involved.

Tune in your radio to the *Ecomedia Report*. We're now heard once a week on the *Word of Mouth* show, every Tuesday between 7 and 8pm on CKLN 88.1 FM. If you live in or near the Toronto area, please give us a listen.

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